



AUGUST 2024

CO-OP CURRENT



Storm Recap: June 25, 2024

On Tuesday, June 25, SCI REMC's territory was hit by a severe storm, causing over 8,500 outages across more than 300 locations. With the help of neighboring REMC crews and contractors, SCI was able to restore service to members and replace over 50 broken utility poles. The primary cause of these outages was vegetation outside of REMC's maintained right-of-ways, including full-grown trees falling onto power lines. Some members have asked why SCI does not bury their lines underground.

"We are continually improving our methods to provide more reliable service, especially in areas prone to outages due to vegetation," said SCI REMC's CEO, James Tanneberger. "The biggest cause of our most recent outages is trees outside our right-of-way. These are tall trees that grow outside the area we are legally allowed to trim. When we experience excessive wind gusts, some tall trees inevitably fall on our lines and cause outages. We and our neighboring providers were hit particularly hard by storms over the last two years, with each of us having similar results."

"The only way for providers to avoid these types of outages is to put electric lines underground. Many have suggested that we place all SCI REMC lines underground, and we have considered it. Our most recent estimates suggest it would cost over \$600 million to put SCI's entire territory underground. The challenge lies in achieving this while maintaining stable electric rates. It is simply not practical to put the entire system underground; however, over the last six years, SCI has invested approximately \$30 million in capital improvements to enhance reliability, including installing some lines underground in high-outage parts of our territory. In addition, we have been applying for state and federal grants aimed at grid resiliency. We are hoping to receive approximately \$25 million to help with these efforts, and we will continue to apply for every available grant. We are improving our system, and we expect our members will see increased reliability over time."



Downed and Dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to 35 ft. away - so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item - this will not prevent injury or death!

Source: ESFI.org

We Want Your Feedback!

Fill out a short survey for a chance to win a **\$25 bill credit!**

Those who provide their information will be entered into a drawing where one member will be randomly selected to receive a \$25 bill credit.

sciremc.com/monthlysurvey

Members must participate in the monthly survey by the deadline to be eligible for the bill credit drawing. The deadlines for each month will be on the webpage with the survey. Members must submit their contact information and account number to enter. The winner will be announced on Facebook and notified via the email address provided upon survey submission.



SAVE THE DATE

Tune into SCI REMC's virtual annual meeting as we celebrate 85 years.

September 28, 2024, at 9:45 a.m.



SCIREMC.COM/ANNUALMEETING

SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO ANNUALMEETING@SCIREMC.COM

